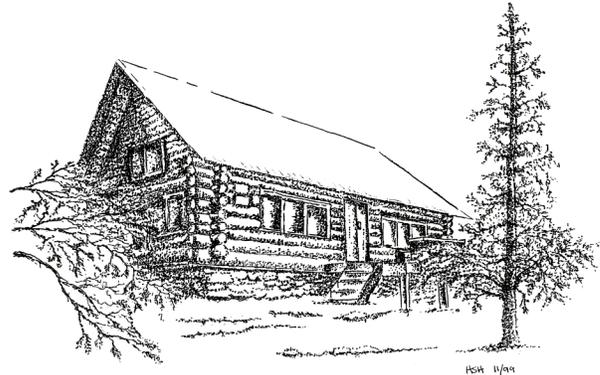


RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

www.gmcburlington.org

Summer 2013

Volunteers Turn Out in a Big Way for Spring Trail Work

On page 1 of our March issue, we encouraged members to go on one or more of the trail work outings that are needed each spring to repair winter's damage and make the trails safe and enjoyable. This year, Burlington Section members responded with unusual enthusiasm! On May 18, Pam Gillis and John Sharp, co-chairs of the Trails Committee, were at the Richmond Park & Ride to meet volunteers and organize the day's work. They had just finished dividing up 18 volunteers into work teams when another car pulled in with five more – and then two more were waiting at the trail head. It was the largest turnout in at least 14 years. (The 1998 ice storm brought out record numbers of volunteers because everyone understood how much damage had been done to trails all over the state.) Not only were the May 18 numbers wonderful, but eleven of the 25 volunteers were new to trail work!

Pam Gillis reported, "Everyone was great and we got sooooo much work done!" The unusually large turnout made it possible to split into several groups and cover Butler Lodge Trail and the Long Trail from Butler to Twin Brooks Tenting Area, in addition to the Lake Mansfield Trail to Puffer Lodge. The groups did an excellent job of removing fallen trees, clipping branches, and cleaning out water bars and drainage ditches. At the end of the day, the twenty-five volunteers had shared laughter, stories, food and hard work. They also shared a strong sense of accomplishment, knowing that they had helped prepare some of the most popular trails in the state for the summer hiking season.

You can see a photo of some of the May 18 trail crew at our website, along with pictures of volunteers working on the trails earlier in the spring – including some hardy volunteers who had to slog through snow. **Thank you, volunteers!!**

Also in this issue:

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Thank You Letter from Vermont Land Trust – page 7

In our March issue, we mentioned the many Burlington Section members who have had extraordinary experiences hiking, climbing, biking, skiing or paddling. We featured Rich Larsen's story, *Scaling Colorado's 100 Highest Peaks*, and recommended articles from our website about a wide variety of outdoor adventures and misadventures such as getting lost on Bolton Mountain and Mount Mansfield, spending a summer in a Long Trail lodge, and encountering tragedy on frozen Lake Champlain. In this issue, we continue our celebration of Burlington Section members who have accomplished extraordinary things.

CYCLING ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Burlington Section member Eric Chittenden has done many fascinating things in his life. He was the founder of Cold Hollow Cider Mill and ran the iconic business for over 2½ decades. He created and operated a 150-seat restaurant named Governor Tom's, named after Thomas Chittenden, Vermont's first Governor. Along with his wife Francine, he built his retirement house. He's hiked on the Long Trail, Appalachian Trail and many others. He has sailed around the world and navigated some of the largest merchant ships in the world. He has flown planes and driven tractor-trailers. But he describes one adventure as *"a wonderful personal challenge, an incredible experience"*.

In 2011, Eric biked 3750 miles, all the way across the country from Seattle to Connecticut. He started by dipping his rear bicycle tire into the waters on the Pacific side of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks. (In addition to being a West Pointer and the engineer who designed the locks, Hiram was Eric's great uncle.) A group of friends, including Wally Kessler and two teenage students with him, were there to see Eric off. He finished the journey and dipped his front bicycle tire into the Atlantic Ocean at Sachem's Head in Guilford Connecticut, where another ancestor, William Chittenden, landed in 1639, 19 years after the Pilgrims. Eric's main reflection was, *"Nothing quite measures up to that bike trip!"*

Eric made the trip a voyage of discovery. He visited many places that were important in Chittenden family history. He also stopped at scenic vistas, took time to talk with people he met, visited every museum that was open when he passed, and read every single historical marker. Montana had more historical markers than any other state and, in his 667 miles of biking across the state, Eric got to know them all intimately. *"Those markers alone created a deep love for Montana and its rich history – long live the Blackfeet!"*

In addition to being a personal challenge, the trip was a voyage of caring, raising much-needed funds for the Vermont Foodbank, Feeding America and other organizations. In 2010, Vermont and Alabama had the highest increase in hunger in America. Eric's wife Francine works for the Vermont Foodbank, and Eric envisioned the bike trip as a way to bring attention to the problem of hunger all across the country, and perhaps inspire others to do the same for their state. He met many cyclists biking for well-known causes such as MS, but no one biking for hunger or to promote healthy life styles.

Eric biked solo because *"I know myself well enough to know that I function best alone"*. For most of the trip, cousin Rod from Wisconsin drove Eric's car along the route. and the two met up periodically during the day and every evening. When Rod wasn't available, Eric made part of the trip with both a car *and* a bike, riding about 75 miles during the day, stashing the bike out of sight, hitchhiking back to his car, and then driving to where he'd left the bike.

Eric has many fond memories of the Green Mountain Club. As a teenager, he thought he'd like to hitchhike to the west coast, buy a 10-speed bike, then bike to the Grand Tetons and work as a fire warden. He applied for just such a job but, when he never got a response regarding his inquiry, he joined the Long Trail Patrol here in Vermont, working alongside the dedicated likes of Harris Abbott and Bob Baird. (Eric later found out that the Park Service had indeed responded and had hired him, but this was before zip codes and postal workers mistook his VT for a UT. The acceptance letter got stuck in Utah all summer.) The summer with the LT Patrol was an excellent experience, although Eric said he made one big mistake: *"I offered to carry Roy Buchanan's pack! He was aging, and I was a strong guy just off the farm, but Roy was intensely proud and always proudly carried his own back-pack – a mistake only made once."*

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CYCLING ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

- continued from page 2 -

Eric and his wife still live in Vermont, on a 30-acre parcel of land on the Waterbury Reservoir. He continues to work on ships that transport goods all over the world and enjoys hiking wherever he goes, recently on trails in the Oakland Hills, Marin County, and northern CA areas, and in Hawaii. Eric worked on this article while he was on a ship going between Oakland, Long Beach and Honolulu. *"I like to keep the blood flowing."*

Some time this summer Eric will host an evening for any cyclists interested in cycling across country. You can expect presentations from other x-c cyclists, and get a lot of firsthand pointers. If you're interested, e-mail Eric at: eric_chittenden@hotmail.com or call his cell: 802-598-0388.

HIKERS AND ROCK CLIMBERS TAKE NOTE – CLIFFS CLOSED FOR FALCON NESTING

Peregrine Falcons are raptors, or birds of prey. They have longer, more pointed wings and longer tails than hawks. The name "peregrine" means wanderer, an appropriate name for a bird that can be found nearly everywhere on Earth. Peregrines are happy in tundra, taiga, tropics, rainforests and even some deserts. In the last few decades, nesting peregrines have even shown up in major cities, where they treat skyscrapers as cliffs and urban streets as canyons.

Peregrine Falcons are about the same size as crows but have a wider wingspan, as much as 39 inches. They are incredibly fast flyers, having been clocked at 200 miles per hour when they're diving on prey. Smaller birds are their primary prey, and they almost always catch them in midair.

Peregrine Falcons usually nest on high rocky ledges close enough to open areas so they can easily leave their young for food expeditions. Their nests are just hollows in the loose gravel or soil, without any additional material. Females generally lay 3 to 4 eggs that are whitish with heavy brown markings.

Peregrine Falcons in the United States were almost wiped out in the 1950s and 1960s by DDT. After the pesticide was banned, the Peregrine population rebounded. The State of Vermont, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Federation, Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), Green Mountain National Forest, The Nature Conservancy, the Peregrine Fund, Inc. and the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife joined forces on several projects to help peregrines. Vermont Fish and Wildlife continues its efforts each year by monitoring nest sites and closing some cliffs during nesting season. From their website: *Ten cliff areas are currently closed to protect nesting peregrine falcons. Although peregrines were removed from the endangered species list, there are a relatively small number of nesting pairs in Vermont. Peregrines are vulnerable to human disturbance on or above a nesting cliff, and the cliffs are closed to improve the odds for successful nesting. We close the portions of the cliffs where the birds are nesting and the trails leading to those cliff areas. These areas will be closed from April to August, but if a falcon pair doesn't nest or if the nest is not successful, they will be reopened. Closure signs indicate which areas are off limits. The signs are posted at the trailhead or along the trail.*

This year, the following areas are closed: Barnet - Route 5 pullout; Bolton – cliff furthest north on the Bolton Notch Road; portions of cliff at Bolton Quarry; Deer Leap in Bristol; cliff top on Fairlee Palisades; portions of cliff on Marshfield Mountain; Great Cliff overlook on Mt. Horrid in Goshen; cliff tops on Nichols Ledge in Woodbury and Rattlesnake Point in Salisbury; cliff top area south of pond and foundation on Snake Mountain in Addison.

Look for and obey signs about closed trails and cliffs.

Even if you don't see a sign, stay at least a quarter of a mile from a known nest site during the breeding season (March-July).

If you see a peregrine falcon and it starts making a loud noise like "kek-kek-kek", back off immediately. (That's the bird's danger call, indicating that it is feeling stressed.

New Members

The following people have joined the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club over the past five months: Thomas Bauschke, Jean Bergeren, Jacki Murphy and Zafir Bladevich, Dana Bolton, Mary Bonneau, Nicholas and Patricia Branch, Carolyn Campbell, Ethan Waldman and Ann Carpenter, Rodney Carr, Douglas Castle, Nathan Caswell, Nicole Dehne, Ann Judson and Tim Gotham, John and Patricia Gowland, Joseph and Ruth Kassel, William Keeton, Joe and Beth Lemnah, Jennifer Long, Jed Lowy, Garrison Nelson and Rosemary Malone, Mary Manghis, Kent Martin, Patrick McKenney, Justine and Daniel Morse, Bryan Harrington and Phyl Newbeck, Jane O'Neil, Thayer Osborne, Daniel and Lauri Pedlar, Kevin and Jane Pottmeyer, Todd Powell, Shane Prisby, Stephanie L. Quandt, Claire Ross, William Ross, Sheila Ryan, Corey Shinnors, Monika Jaeckle and Louis Slamina, Daniel and Laurie Steinbach, Neil and Marilyn Stout, Marc Trollinger, Ginessa Vazquez, Bill Warnock, Barbara Waters, Christopher and Suzanne Weishaar, Don Welch, George Wells, Timothy Wheeler, Sage Wilmot

WELCOME!

How to find info on the Burlington Section Website: <http://gmc Burlington.org/>

The Burlington Section website is a good place to look for very recent information such as outings, trip reports and announcements. But the site has a good bit of history in it as well. There are two kinds of searches: 1) search the contents of past issues of *Ridge Lines* or 2) search the contents of the website itself (which does not include *Ridge Lines*).

1) To look for a word or phrase in a past *Ridge Lines*, see the paragraph on the right side of the homepage of the website "SEARCH RIDGELINES NEWSLETTERS (2003 TO CURRENT)". This links to a Google page that has indexed past issues of *Ridge Lines*.

2) To search the website, type your search term in the "SEARCH THIS SITE" box on the right side of the homepage.

Don't forget you can sort your view of the homepage by clicking "CATEGORIES" on the right side of the homepage. Try it!

Have a suggestion for how to improve the website? Please let me know. ted@ted-albers.net

Long-time Burlington Section member Ginny Yandow died on March 11, 2013, at 61 years old. Ginny loved traveling and made multiple trips to Alaska. She lived on the Alaskan Island of Kodiak and taught in St. Mary's Parochial School on the island from 1985-86. Her special interests included hiking, photography, reading, family genealogy research and Native American history.

Ginny was a caretaker at Taylor Lodge one summer. In the 1980s and 1990s, Ginny served as outings co-chair, alternate director, special events coordinator, vice-president, and president of the Burlington Section.

Sue Morse of Jericho shared the following story about Ginny: *I vividly remember an incident on a Salmon River GMC excursion I led some years ago. Ginny's joie de vivre and humor played a big part in this event. She and others conspired to quietly put a huge frog inside the sleeping Phil Sharpsteen's tent, in the hope of scaring him. Moments later, Ginny worried about the frog getting crushed by Phil and decided to retrieve it. Meanwhile, Phil had been awake all the time and was crouching there at the dark entrance of his tent when John, Ginny and I cautiously opened the flap. RIBBITTT!!! Phil shouted in a booming voice as he hopped out toward them. Ginny fell over backwards she was laughing so hard. This is classic Ginny. We will all fondly remember her zeal for fun and adventure in the natural world. Ginny was a person of great humor, fun and love in her heart – and that's what we all remember.*

Section Outings

Summer 2013

Unless otherwise specified, call the trip leader to sign up, find out what equipment you'll need, and learn about any changes. Check with trip leader before bringing your pet along. Human guests are always welcome. Trip leaders often arrange carpooling. If you ride along in someone else's car, we recommend reimbursing the driver at the rate of 10 cents a mile.

June

6/1 (Sat) **National Trails Day Work Hike** Help clear the Long Trail of fallen branches, rocks, etc. Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 5-10 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com, and John Sharp, 862-3941.

6/2 (Sun) **Easy Snake Mountain Hike for Beginners, Kids and Dogs** One of the easiest rewarding wilderness summits in VT, Snake Mountain offers an interesting history, open views, a unique natural lake close to the summit and easy walking along an old carriage road. Easy hike at a leisurely pace, 3.6 miles, 900' elevation gain. All ages and fitness levels are welcome to join. Contact leader in advance about meeting place and time. Wolfgang Hokenmaier, 343-8175 or wolfgang.hokenmaier@gmail.com **Note: The location of this hike might be changed due to nesting Peregrine Falcons on Snake Mountain.**

6/8 (Sat) **Stowe Pinnacle-Mt Hunger Loop** We'll make the easy ascent to Stowe Pinnacle, then backtrack a bit to the Ridge (Hogback) Trail for the climb up to the Skyline Trail on Worcester Ridge. From here, south two miles to Mount Hunger and down to the Waterbury trail head to pick up cars or bikes that were dropped off on our way to Stowe. Moderate to difficult terrain, moderate pace, 7 miles, 1400' elevation gain. E-mail leader by 6/7. Darryl Smith at dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com (or 522-2516).

6/9 (Sun) **Bike Kingsland Bay** We'll take our road bikes out for a beautiful ride through the Kingsland Bay area. Feel free to bring your kids in a trailer. There should be minimal traffic. Easy, flat, approx. 20 miles. Contact leader by 6/7. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleychristie@gmail.com

6/15 (Sat) **Long Trail Between VT 118 and Cross Road** We'll hike from VT 118 south on the Long Trail through Devil's Gulch to the Davis Neighborhood Trail at Corliss Camp. We'll then descend to Cross Road. Difficult hike, moderate pace, 11.1 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Contact leader by 6/14. Peter Cottrell, 879-0755 or pcottrel@myfairpoint.net

6/22 (Sat) **Mt. Ethan Allen** Escape the crowds and enjoy the views on this prominent peak just south of Camels Hump. Moderate pace, 5 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Lee Wrigley, leewrigley@myfairpoint.net or 318-6281.

6/23 (Sun) **Sawteeth, Pyramid, & Gothics-ADK** From the Ausable Club we'll have an easy walk to Lower Ausable Lake, then climb Sawteeth and Pyramid. We'll continue to Gothics, one of the Adirondack 46 high peaks. Difficult, ~12.5 miles, ~3100' elevation gain, moderate to strong pace. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 6/21. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

6/29 (Sat) **Taylor Lodge: Kid and Dog Friendly** This is a great family hike, with good views along the trail, beaver dams and a waterfall. Taylor Lodge has an open-faced "porch" with picnic tables that look out over the notch. Easy, 3.2 miles, 700' elevation gain. Limit 4 dogs. Contact leader by 6/27. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or Kelleychristie@gmail.com

July

7/6 (Sat) **Laraway Loop** From Davis Neighborhood, we'll head over to Coddington Hollow, follow the Long Trail up over Laraway Mt., and return via Davis Neighborhood Trail. Moderate hike, moderate to strong pace, ~8 miles, ~1600 feet elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 7/4. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com

7/7 (Sun) **Camels Hump via Bamforth Ridge** D+ (difficult plus), 12.4 miles, strong pace. 12.4 miles with about 4300' of total elevation gain, on what could be a hot day. Expect 8-9 hours on the trail. Strong, experienced hikers only. E-mail leader by 7/5. Rich Larsen, larsen007@aol.com

7/13 (Sat) **Mystery Outing** E-mail leader for details. Darryl Smith at dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com (or 522-2516).

July – cont.

7/14 (Sun) **Beaver Meadow Shelter, Whiteface Loop** Hike the Beaver Meadow Trail to Beaver Meadow Shelter, Chilcoat Trail, Long Trail with a rest stop at Whiteface Shelter. There is an option to hike up to the top of Whiteface Mountain. We will return on the Whiteface Trail back to Beaver Meadow Trail and parking lot. Difficult, 9.5 miles. Carlene Squires, 434-2533 or carlene@gmavt.net

7/20 (Sat) **New Boston Trail + Long Trail** We will hike on the New Boston Trail from USFS 99 near the Chittenden Reservoir to the Long Trail and then south along the Long Trail to RT 4. Difficult hike, moderate pace, 13.9 miles, about 2000' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Contact leader by 7/19. Peter Cottrell, 879-0755 or pcottrel@myfairpoint.net

7/21 (Sun) **Niquette Bay State Park Walk** Let's enjoy one of our beautiful state parks with our kids and our dogs. Bring lunch, snacks and water and leash for your dogs. Easy with easy pace, approx. 2 miles. Limit 3 dogs. Contact leader by 7/19. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

7/27 (Sat) **Theron Dean Shelter** Enjoy a nice walk in the woods over Stark Mountain as we visit the shelter named for an early and active GMC member who was known for his wonderful slide presentations. 4 miles, moderate pace, 900' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Lee Wrigley, 318-6281 or leewrigley@myfairpoint.net

7/28 (Sun) **Mt. Hunger/White Rocks Loop from Middlesex** We'll hike up Mt. Hunger from the Middlesex (east) side of the mountain. This trail goes up pretty steadily with a few scrambles near the top. From the top of Mt. Hunger, we'll go down the west side of the mountain a short way and take the trail over to White Rocks. From White Rocks, we will loop back to the trail we started on and return to the trailhead. Estimated hiking time is 5 hours, including lunch. Moderate to difficult hike at a moderate pace, 6 miles, 1900' to Mt. Hunger and an additional 570' to the top of White Rocks. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 7/26. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

August

8/3 (Sat) **Lamoille River Bridge to Plot Road** Enjoy great views from Prospect Rock as we traverse the Long Trail from the Lamoille River Bridge to Plot Road in north-central Vermont. Moderate, 4.4 miles, 1300' elevation gain. Pat Nowlan, patricia.nowlan@gmail.com or 578-3980.

8/4 (Sun) **Snake Mountain: Kid- and Dog-Friendly** This is a 4.1 mile loop hike, easy with an easy pace, 980' elevation gain. Approximate hike time is 2 hours, but can vary with children. The first ½ mile is mostly flat. The trail is an Old Carriage Road so it is wide and easy to follow. It includes Red Rock Pond on the descent. The summit has 180-degree views of the Adirondacks and the Champlain Valley. Limit 4 dogs. Contact leader by 8/2. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com **Note: The location of this hike might be changed due to nesting Peregrine Falcons on Snake Mountain.**

8/10 (Sat) **Mystery Outing** E-mail leader for details. Darryl Smith at dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com (or 522-2516).

8/11 (Sun) **Bushwhack Mt, Mansfield via Pleasant Ridge** After following a forest road and the remnants of old trails, we'll bushwhack to where Pleasant Ridge joins Sunset Ridge and continue to the Mt. Mansfield summit. Difficult hike, moderate to strong pace, ~8 miles, ~2600' elevation gain. Group limit 8. Contact leader by 8/9. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com

8/17 (Sat) **Honey Hollow Botany Walk** We'll walk the loop of Honey Hollow Trail and HH Road at a moderate pace, with many stops to ID the late summer flowers and ferns and whatever else anyone knows. Moderate, approx. 4-hour walk covering the 5 miles, 1000' elevation gain. Contact leader by 8/15. Rich Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

8/18 (Sun) **Montclair Glen, Beaver Ponds and Allis Trail** A short trail from the Camels Hump parking lot leads across a bridge over the cataracts of Brish Brook and the Forest City Trail just beyond. The Forest City trail ascends to the Long Trail at Wind Gap. About .3 mile beyond the Gap is a beaver pond with a fantastic view of the Hump. After returning to the Long Trail, we take the Allis Trail with a totally different view of Camels Hump. Then we follow the Long Trail just .2 miles past Montclair Glen Shelter and back down the Forest City Trail. Moderate hike, slow pace, 3.7 miles. Dot Myer, dotmyer@myfairpoint.net or 863-2433.

August – cont.

8/24 (Sat) **Mt. Abraham from Lincoln Gap** We will start at the trailhead at the top of Lincoln Gap and hike to the top of Mt. Abraham on the Long Trail. The return trip will be on the same trail. The plan is to have lunch on the top and enjoy the lovely views. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 5.2 miles, 1582' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Contact leader by 8/22. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

September

9/1 (Sun) **Whiteface Mt. from Smuggler's Notch** From the top of Smuggler's Notch we'll climb to Sterling Pond, then follow the Long Trail over Madonna and Morse Mountains, continue to Whiteface Mountain and return. Difficult hike, moderate to strong pace, ~11 miles, ~4000' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by Friday 8/30. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com

9/8 (Sun) **Sterling Pond** From the parking lot on Rt. 108 in Stowe, we'll walk up the Long Trail 2 miles to Elephant's Head then 1.2 miles to Sterling Pond and the shelter. Several wonderful views, a few steep spots. Moderate, 8 miles, 1200' elevation gain. Group limit 5. Car pool details and times upon request. Contact leader at ted@ted-albers.net

9/14 (Sat) **Mystery Outing** E-mail leader for details. Darryl Smith at dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com (or 522-2516).

9/15 (Sun) **Camels Hump** Hike to the top of the highest undeveloped peak in Vermont via the Forest City Trail and Long Trail. Enjoy some time on the open summit before returning via the Burrows Trail. Difficult, 7 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Pat Nowlan, patricia.nowlan@gmail.com or 578-3980.

9/29 (Sun) **Catching Glimpses of Fall from Stowe Pinnacle** This kid- and dog-friendly hike is relatively short but steep, leading to a bald open summit which will provide spectacular views and signs of fall over the Green Mountains and Worcester Range. Moderate, 2.8 miles, 1520' elevation gain. Limit 3 dogs. Contact leader by 9/27. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or Kelleychristie@gmail.com

9/29 (Sun) **Abbey Pond** The trail climbs gently with several brook crossings, one of which can be difficult but should be no problem at this time of the year. This pretty, old beaver pond gives a view of twin peaks of Frost Mountain which may show early fall color. Easy hike, slow pace, 4.6 miles, 1260' elevation gain. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

Were you inspired by the story about Eric Chittenden's bike ride across the US? Get in shape for your own long-distance biking! GMC sections all over the state are hosting biking outings this summer, including at least one length-of-the-state bike tour. Go to www.greenmountainclub.org then click on News and Events (left side of page) and then Events Calendar. All GMC sections welcome visitors from other parts of Vermont!

Thank You to the Burlington Section

At the February Annual Meeting, members of the Burlington Section approved donating \$2,000 to the VT Land Trust to help with the Bolton Valley project. The Vermont Land Trust is working to buy a large section of forest in Bolton Valley, to prevent a possible sale to a private party and insure that the land will remain open for public use.

We received the following note from Elise Annes, Vice-President for Community Relations at the VT Land Trust:

Because of your recent gift of \$2000 to the Vermont Land Trust on 2/20/2013, we are a step closer to purchasing the 1,161 acres of forestland that hosts the Bolton Valley Nordic and backcountry trails. This will be an outstanding legacy for all current and future Vermont residents and visitors.

In addition to attracting more than 15,000 people each year for hiking and skiing, the property is part of an important wildlife habitat connection between two large blocks of state land: Mt. Mansfield State Forest and Camel's Hump State Park. In fact, this land was identified as the highest priority for conservation by the partners in the Chittenden County Uplands Conservation Project – a community conservation effort that has protected 8,000 acres in 10 years.

VLT greatly appreciates your generosity that will help us permanently protect this treasure of natural beauty and recreational resource.

Ridge Lines

GMC BURLINGTON SECTION

Green Mountain Club

4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road

Waterbury Center VT 05677

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